Program brings community, TEAM KIRTLAND together for volunteerism

BY JENNIFER E. WEST
377 Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Volunteer Resource Program, headed by acting manager Larry Davis the past several months, at the Family Support Center seeks to bring together TEAM KIRTLAND volunteers interested in participating in activities on or off the base.

If your base organization needs volunteer help, the Volunteer Resource Program is where you need to call. TEAM KIRTLAND volunteers could assist you by manning a booth, coordinating or managing an event or catching the small stuff involved in fund-raising or promoting awareness and providing information on an issue to Kirtland AFB community. And, if your organization wants to connect with the local communities through lending a helping hand, the office is here to help you find a nonprofit organization or program that suits your needs.

"Albuquerque is a dynamic city with lots of diversity, lots of different projects going on," Davis said, describing the plethora of nonprofit organizations represented locally. In fact, with so many on- and off-base volunteer opportunities and numerous nonprofit organizations outside vying for help, Davis explained, "it's extremely challenging trying to put your arms around it all."

Although the volunteer resource program is primarily aimed at involving TEAM KIRTLAND members in base events and volunteerism, Davis noted that reaching out to the community outside the gates is also an important commitment for the base and the Air Force.

"Like Intel or Honeywell, we have a commitment to the community in which we live and work to give something back, to go out there and make things better as a 'corporation.'" Davis said. "Volunteering feeds into that and there's a lot of volunteering at Kirtland AFB…nobody makes the community better than you—it starts with you."

And, while Davis realizes most people don't volunteer to glorify themselves, he needs to learn of their contributions in order to document types of volunteerism and the individual and cumulative hours. Those statistics, he said, help not only individuals in areas like performance evaluations but also could be factor in community impact reports if a base were to be considered for closing.

While serving as acting manager, Davis brought his expertise from the same job title at Holloman AFB, N.M. As the Kirtland AFB manager, Davis' short-term priority was connecting with the base population and letting them know the program is here for them. His long-term goal was building on a volunteer database begun by his predecessor, Rav Nicholson.

"Rav created a database to keep track of all the different projects and people that actually volunteer—that's going to be very significant," Davis explained. "It will be able to give us a snapshot of what's going on (in volunteerism) at Kirtland as far as our involvement in our community and who's involved in what project and the numbers, how many people did this. She did a marvelous job. It is very intensive (with) names, phones, projects worked and hours."

But, Davis conceded, that system can only as good as the information received. The office needs everyone on the base to help by providing up-to-date information. So, he urges all units to not only track volunteerism for their own purposes but to also share the information with his office—consistently and throughout the year.

Many volunteer opportunities are upcoming at Kirtland AFB. Among them, Davis noted, are the 58th Special Operation Wing's Career Day at which many volunteers will be needed and the Make a Difference Day in May that helps the local community. And, Davis said, the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Picnic is May 2, 11 a.m., at the Rio Grande Community Center. That event recognizes every volunteer on the base and is open to all TEAM KIRTLAND to attend.

Although Davis moves to a new permanent position in Civilian Personnel, interested volunteers can call the Family Support Center, 846-0741, to learn more about the program.
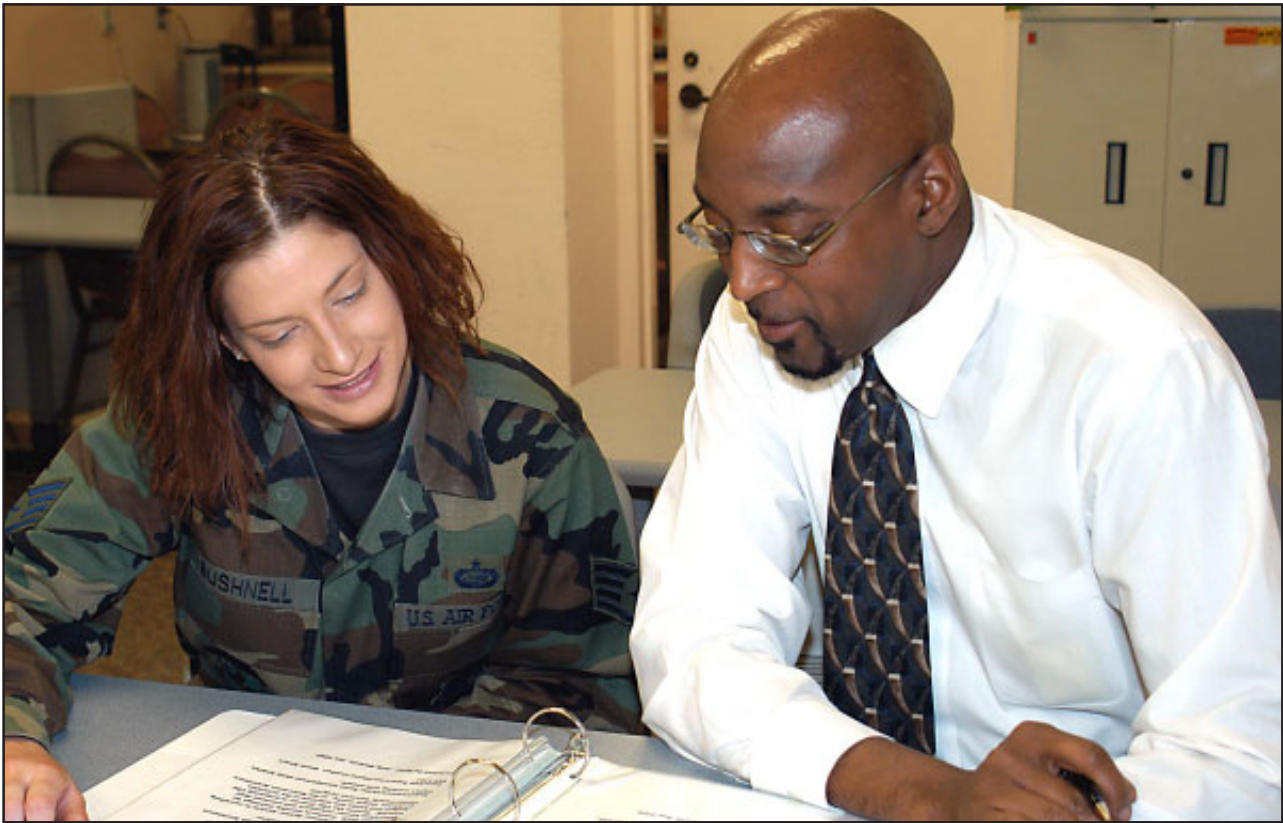

Photo by Lisa Gonzales

Staff Sgt. Stacey Bushnell of the Pararescue School's Personnel section views volunteer opportunities in a notebook at the Volunteer Resource Program headed by Larry Davis.

You may make the difference 'Countering Terrorism Requires Your Help'

BY SCOTT D. DAUGHTRY
Air Force Office of Special Investigations Det. 116

Only *you* know who or what belongs – or doesn't belong – in your building, neighborhood or work center. Recognition of this fact is behind one of the latest Air Force antiterrorism initiatives, a program known as "Eagle Eyes."

The program has characteristics of a typical neighborhood watch program, and Air Force officials consider it a key piece in the service's antiterrorism strategy.

The program takes its cue from the experiences of British and Israeli authorities, who have had significant experience dealing with urban terrorism.

They make it their business to pay a lot of attention to small things that, in combination, can indicate they're being targeted. Eagle Eyes is our model for doing just that. The simple act of recognizing suspicious behavior and reporting it to base authorities could thwart terrorist acts and save lives.

At Kirtland AFB, anyone with something to report should immediately call the 377th Security Forces Law En-forcement Desk at 846-7913 or 846-7926. From there, security forces will respond as appropriate to the immediate situation and immediately pass the report to the Office of Special Investigations, Det. 116. From there, OSI will begin appropriate follow-up action, which may include an agent responding to talk with the person who called in the report to gain additional information on what was seen or heard.

At the same time, the information will be quickly upchannelled to OSI's central analytical center at Andrews AFB, Md., to compare with other Air Force reports, as well as similar information from the Army, Navy and other federal agencies.

But it all begins at the local level, where terrorists conduct operational planning activities.

Every terrorist operation is preceded by precursor events that people need to recognize and report. Terrorist acts don't just happen – they are carefully planned and rehearsed many, many times in advance.

The key is public awareness of what to look for and take note of – both on and off base.

This is something the whole community needs to be involved in. Anyone – from active-duty military members, to family members, to government civilians, contractors and, even off-base business proprietors – could see something out of the ordinary, report it and make the difference between a terrorist act occurring or not occurring. Our best chance to detect and prevent a terrorist act in our community is to vigilantly report it. The more eyes and ears we can enlist to be on the lookout for suspicious activity, the more difficult we can make it for terrorists to act.

Don't be gun-shy about reporting incidents that could turn out to be innocent behavior. That's bound to happen from time to time, but you don't know if it's innocent until you report it and have it checked out.

The OSI is much less concerned about too much reporting than with too little. When lives are at stake, it's better to be safe than sorry. If in doubt, report it. Your call could make the difference. The bottom line is if something bothers you or doesn't seem right, *tell* someone."

Activity that should be reported can be classified into seven broad categories:

- Surveillance. Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.

- Elicitation. People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone or in person.

- Tests of security. Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

- Acquiring supplies. Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. Also includes acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or any other controlled items.

- Suspicious persons out of place. People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment or anywhere else. Includes suspicious border crossings and stowaways aboard ship or people jumping ship in port.

- Dry run. Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

- Deploying assets: People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person's last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.